

The House Committee on Game, Fish and Parks offers the following substitute to HB 603:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so as to define a term; to regulate the exporting, farming, and selling of fresh-water turtles; to provide for rules and regulations; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended in Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

"(29.2) 'Fresh-water turtle' means any turtle or its eggs within the families Chelydridae, Emydidae (excluding Malaclemys terrapin and Terrapene carolina), Kinosternidae, and Trionychidae."

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"27-3-19.1.

(a) It shall be unlawful to export, farm, or sell any fresh-water turtle or part thereof except in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the board.

(b) As the board deems appropriate for purposes of this Code section, it may promulgate such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary under sound wildlife management practices."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.